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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yoshiki Sasaki et al.

Serial No.:

Filed:

For: SEALING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MANUFACTURING HIGH-PERFORMANCE
GAS DISCHARGE PANEL

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

Irvine, CA 92614

March 12, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Q1 1 4. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein
2 in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the
3 surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and
4 in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit
5 to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.